



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

AUG 30 2002

Dr. Peter-Paul Hoppe, Chief Veterinary Officer
Federal Institute for Health Protection
of Consumers and Veterinary Medicine
Lieter, Veterinarmedizin
Mohrenstr, 62
10117 Berlin, Germany

Dear Dr. Hoppe:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) conducted an on-site audit of Germany's meat inspection system from July 18 through August 6, 2001. Enclosed is a copy of the final audit report. Comments by Germany on the draft final audit report have been included as Attachment "G" in the enclosed final audit report.

As you know, this audit revealed numerous inadequacies in implementing and enforcing the required programs, through all levels of authority, in the Germany meat inspection system. Numerous deficiencies were noted during the audit, pertaining to (1) the development and implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program requirements; (2) government monitoring/verifying of pre-operational sanitation adequacy and effectiveness (part of Sanitation Standard Operation Procedures (SSOP)); (3) inspection coverage; (4) monthly supervisory visits; (5) the control of inedible product; (6) HACCP verification activities by the government; (7) intra-laboratory and/or inter-laboratory check samples; and (8) the inclusion of *Listeria monocytogenes* in HACCP plans. Some of these concerns were also observed during the October 2000 audit.

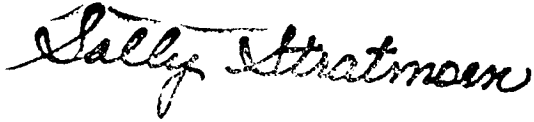
In addition, FSIS has carefully reviewed your comments to the draft final audit report dated May 31, 2002, and the assurances provided at the exit conference of August 6, 2001, and appreciate your willingness to correct the deficiencies noted above. The FY 2002 audit of Germany's meat inspection was vastly improved over the previous two audits and indicates a successful effort to fully correct these deficiencies.

In your May 31, 2002 comments, you also raised some concerns regarding the nature of the deficiencies and their compatibility with international agreements. We would like to discuss these comments further and will contact you in the near future regarding a teleconference.

If I can provide further information regarding this audit or you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience. I can be contacted by

e-mail at sally.stratmoen@fsis.usda.gov, by telephone at 202-720-3781, or by facsimile at 202-690-4040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Stratmoen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Sally Stratmoen, Chief, Equivalence Section
International Policy Staff
Office of Policy, Program Development
and Evaluation

Enclosure

cc: Friedrich Wacker, Agricultural Counselor, German Embassy
Richard Petges, Minister Counselor, American Embassy, Bonn
Gerry Keily, Counselor (Agriculture), EU Mission to the U.S.
Mary Revelt, Minister-Counselor, US Mission to the EU in Brussels
John Wilson, FAS Area Officer
Amy Winton, State Department
Catherine Otte, FAS
Donald Smart, TSC, FSIS
Sally Stratmoen, IPS
Karen Stuck, IPS
Richard Brown, IPS
Country File (FY 2001 Audit - #2)